

LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY USE OF MPSCS TOWERS

Legislative action in the FY06 budget, P.A. 159 of 2005, includes boilerplate language requiring an assessment of the progress toward establishing local public safety agency use of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) towers. The language reads as follows:

Sec. 307. The department of state police shall serve as an active liaison between the department of information technology and local public safety agencies to facilitate the use of the Michigan public safety communications system towers by those local public safety agencies that have an interest in using the towers as a part of their own communications system. The department of state police shall deliver a written report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on state police and military and veterans affairs by April 1, 2006, which shall include an assessment of the progress toward establishing local public safety agency use of the Michigan public safety communications system towers, an accounting of problems that may be preventing local use of the towers, and any recommendations the department has that may foster this utilization.

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) systematically allows requesting local public safety agencies access to MPSCS towers. Procedures have been established for local public safety agencies to follow in requesting this access, and standards have been developed which allow for access without degrading the effectiveness of the overall system.

With the procedures and standards established, there are no issues which would prohibit a local public safety agency from being able to collocate appropriate communications equipment on the MPSCS towers. Local equipment has already been installed on numerous MPSCS sites, and DIT is involved in ongoing discussions for installation of various types of equipment on tower sites across the state. DIT has clearly shown they are willing to work with any such agency wishing to consider this option.